

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1233

Sponsors: Representatives LaRoque and Wainwright (Primary Sponsors).
 For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

Referred to:

June 28, 2012

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE CITY OF KINSTON.

2 Whereas, the City of Kinston, located along the banks of the Neuse River, is steeped
3 in tradition and culture; and

4 Whereas, in 1729 a grant of 640 acres of land was given to Robert Atkins in the area
5 later known as Kinston and, for a time, the site was known as Atkins Banks; and

6 Whereas, on November 3, 1762, the Colonial Assembly established the Town of
7 Kingston and named it in honor of King George III; and

8 Whereas, in 1777, during the Revolutionary War, North Carolina's first Governor,
9 Richard Caswell, a resident of Kingston, ordered all of the State's records be moved from New
10 Bern to Kingston due to his belief that New Bern's location was vulnerable to attack from the
11 British. The relocation of the records made Kingston the de facto capital of North Carolina.
12 Meetings of the Council of State, war planning board, and other official gatherings were held in
13 Kingston; and

14 Whereas, on April 19, 1784, the General Assembly, at the request of the citizens of
15 Kingston, acknowledged our freedom from England and changed the spelling of "Kingston" to
16 "Kinston"; and

17 Whereas, in 1791, Lenoir County was created from the abolished Dobbs County
18 with the town of Kinston as the seat of the newly formed county; and

19 Whereas, Kinston has also served as the location of a number of noteworthy events,
20 including two Civil War battles in 1862 and 1865, Kinston becoming the home port to the CSS
21 Neuse, which is a Civil War ironclad gunboat. The first X-ray machine in the South was
22 assembled in Kinston; and

23 Whereas, the 19th and 20th Centuries brought major trading centers for tobacco,
24 cotton, and prosperity to Kinston. Kinston was known as the "World's Foremost Tobacco
25 Market." During the 20th century, Kinston thrived, becoming a major manufacturer in the
26 textile industry with numerous clothing factories and DuPont; and

27 Whereas, in 1944 the United States Navy built a United States Marine Corps flying
28 training airfield known as Marine Corps Auxiliary Airfield Kinston. That facility is known
29 today as Kinston Regional Jetport and still possesses the distinction of having a single runway
30 that is one of the longest on the east coast of the United States. In January 1999, ownership of
31 the Kinston Regional Jetport was transferred to the North Carolina Global TransPark Authority,
32 a combined airport-industrial complex designed to attract industry and bring increased
33 economic opportunities to the citizens of Eastern North Carolina and beyond; and

34 Whereas, Kinston takes pride in its historic sites, serving as the location of 22 sites
35 listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and



1 Whereas, Kinston has contributed to the cultural prosperity of the State, with the
2 Kinston Community Council for the Arts, a public arts trail, Blue Grass Music Concerts, Sand
3 in the Streets Concerts, Barbeque Festival on the Neuse, and the restored Grainger-Hill
4 Performing Arts Center; and

5 Whereas, in 1988 and 2009 Kinston was selected as an All-American City; and

6 Whereas, Kinston is observing its 250th anniversary in 2012; Now, therefore,

7 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

8 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the founders of the City of Kinston
9 and honors the historic city for its 250 years of contributions to its community, the State of
10 North Carolina, and the nation.

11 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
12 resolution to the Mayor of the City of Kinston.

13 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.